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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE
Thirty-fifth session
15-26 June 1992

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

To be convened at United Nations Headquarters,
on Monday, 15 June 1992, at 3 p.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of a Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur.
3. Commemorative meeting on International Space Year (ISY).
4. Statement by the Chairman.
5. General exchange of views.
6. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.*
7. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its twenty-ninth session (A/AC.105/513).
8. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-first session (A/AC.105/514).
9. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

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* Priority item in accordance with paragraph 29 of General Assembly resolution 46/45.

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10. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.

11. Other matters.

12. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

ANNOTATIONS*

Items 1 and 2: Adoption of the agenda

Election of a Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur

1. Following the adoption of its agenda, the Committee will elect a new Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur. The provisional schedule of work, which will be followed with flexibility, is contained in the annex to the present agenda.

Item 3: Commemorative meeting on International Space Year

2. In accordance with paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 46/45, by which the Assembly recommended that in 1992 the Committee should dedicate at least one meeting of its regular session to International Space Year, the Committee will devote the rest of its first meeting to commemorating the Year. A panel discussion on international cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space in the context of ISY, the programme for which will be issued in due course as an addendum to the present document, is being planned as part of the commemorative meeting.

Item 4: Statement by the Chairman

3. The Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Committee that have taken place since its thirty-fourth session.

Item 5: General exchange of views

4. The Committee will begin its substantive work with a general exchange of views. (Delegations wishing to speak under this item are asked to submit their names to the Secretariat as soon as possible.)

Item 6: Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes

5. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/45 of 9 December 1991, paragraph 29, requested the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

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* The annotations are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Committee.

6. The General Assembly, in paragraph 28 of the same resolution, took note of the views expressed and documents circulated during the thirty-fourth session of the Committee and during the forty-sixth session of the Assembly concerning ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

Item 7: Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its twenty-ninth session (A/AC.105/513)

7. At its twenty-ninth session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee in its report to the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly 1/ and paragraph 7 of resolution 46/45, considered the following questions:

(a) United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system

Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

8. The Subcommittee conducted, on a priority basis, a joint consideration of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82). 2/ The Subcommittee's report contains a review of the Space Applications Programme and its activities for 1991 and 1992 and a proposed programme of activities for 1993, which it recommended for approval. 3/

9. Regarding the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system, the Subcommittee in its report continued to stress the necessity of ensuring such coordination. 4/

10. On the question of regional and interregional mechanisms of cooperation, the Subcommittee took note of the efforts undertaken as part of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, in accordance with the UNISPACE 82 recommendation concerning the development of indigenous capabilities, to establish regional centres for space science and technology education in existing national or regional educational institutions in developing countries, as outlined in the report entitled "Centres for Space Science and Technology - a progress report" (A/AC.105/498), and urged Member States to support the development of such regional centres. 5/

(b) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including, inter alia, applications for developing countries

11. The Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item on a priority basis, and the views expressed are reflected in its report. 6/ The Subcommittee recommended that the item be retained on its agenda as a priority item for the next session. 7/

(c) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

12. The Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item on a priority basis and adopted the report of its Working Group (A/AC.105/513, annex III), which noted that, on the basis of the work done at its last session, in 1990, the Legal Subcommittee's Working Group on the question had been able to agree on a text for draft principle 3 relating to guidelines and criteria for safe use (A/AC.105/457, annex I, para. 12). The Working Group further noted that the scientific and technical guidelines and criteria for the safe use of nuclear power sources in outer space could, in the future, be reviewed and revised as necessary, as provided in draft principle 12 of the draft principles contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.154/Rev.10, submitted by Canada and Germany. 8/

13. The Subcommittee noted that those delegations would prepare an eleventh revision of the draft principles contained in L.154. In their view as well as that of some other delegations, the revised working paper would reflect discussions held at the current session of the Subcommittee and would provide the Legal Subcommittee with a document which would help it in meeting the aim set by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, that the principles on nuclear power sources be finalized at the next session of the Legal Subcommittee. 9/

14. The Subcommittee agreed that further studies should be conducted on the problem of the collision of nuclear power sources with space debris and that it should be kept informed of the results of such studies. The Subcommittee also took note of a working paper submitted by the Russian Federation (A/AC.105/C.1/L.180) containing preliminary results of studies on the question. 10/

15. The Subcommittee recommended that the item be retained on its agenda for the next session and that the question of reconvening the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space be considered by the Committee at the current session in the light of the work carried out by the Legal Subcommittee on the subject at its thirty-first session. 11/

(d) Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space

16. During the course of its discussion on this item, the Subcommittee took note of the developments in the various programmes relating to space transportation systems. 12/ It recommended that consideration of the item be continued at its next session. 13/

(e) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

17. The Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item, and the views expressed are reflected in paragraphs 68 to 71 of its report. It recommended that consideration of the item be continued at its next session. 14/

(f) Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine

(g) Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme

(h) Matters relating to planetary exploration

(i) Matters relating to astronomy

18. The Subcommittee continued consideration of these items, and the views expressed are reflected in paragraphs 73-77, 79-89 and 91-93 of its report. With regard to (f) above, the Subcommittee took note of a working paper on the subject submitted by the Russian Federation (A/AC.105/C.1/L.182) and a study prepared by the Secretariat on applications of biomedical technology resulting from space life-science research (A/AC.105/500). 15/ It recommended that consideration of these items be continued at its next session. 16/

(j) The theme fixed for special attention at the 1992 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Space technology and the protection of the Earth's environment: development of endogenous capabilities, in particular in the developing countries and in the context of International Space Year".

19. The Subcommittee paid special attention to this theme and noted with satisfaction that, at its invitation and as part of the special session for International Space Year, the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) had organized a symposium on the theme. 17/

20. The Subcommittee set out in paragraph 114 (g) of its report the new theme fixed for special attention at its thirtieth session: "Space-based communication: the expansion of current services and increased understanding of new systems and the services they will make possible".

(k) Other matters

(i) International Space Year

21. The Subcommittee expressed its appreciation to COSPAR and IAF for sponsoring and assisting in the organization of the special session to celebrate ISY (see also para. 19 above). The Subcommittee took note of the proposed programme for the participation of the United Nations in ISY (A/AC.105/445 and Add.1-7) and that a guidebook describing the programme had been distributed to Member States. It also noted that the General Assembly, in paragraphs 20 and 21 of its resolution 46/45, had urged Member States, international organizations and other funding sources to support the ISY activities of the United Nations and had reiterated its recommendation that Member States, in planning their activities for the Year, consider ways in which those activities could complement the efforts under way for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. 18/

22. The Subcommittee expressed its appreciation to the Member States and international organizations that had made voluntary contributions in support of United Nations participation in ISY or were planning to so do and urged other Member States and international organizations to further support scientific and technical activities in cooperation with the United Nations as part of the Year. 19/

23. The Subcommittee noted the wide variety of national and international programmes being undertaken as part of the Year, including the activities coordinated through the Space Agency Forum on International Space Year (SAFISY), COSPAR, IAF and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS). It also noted in particular the plans for the World Space Congress being organized jointly by COSPAR and IAF, the importance of including all countries in those programmes and of planning activities that would continue beyond 1992. 20/

(ii) Space and Earth Environment

24. On the question of space and the Earth environment, the Subcommittee noted that the General Assembly, in paragraph 23 of resolution 46/45, had recommended that more attention be paid to all aspects related to the protection and preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment. The Subcommittee also noted that the Assembly, in paragraph 24 of the same resolution, had considered that it was essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions with space debris and other aspects of space debris, and had called, among other things, for the continuation of national research on the question. 21/

25. The Subcommittee took note of the information submitted by Member States in response to the Secretary-General's request that they provide information on their national research on space debris, which was contained in document A/AC.105/510 and Add.1 to 3. It also took note of two working papers on the

subject, submitted by Poland (A/AC.105/C.1/L.181) and by Czechoslovakia (A/AC.105/C.1/L.184). 22/

26. The Subcommittee noted further that the General Assembly, in resolution 46/45, had considered that space debris could be an appropriate subject for in-depth discussion by the Committee in the future. 23/

27. The views expressed on several other matters are covered in paragraphs 110 to 112 of the Subcommittee's report.

28. The Subcommittee set out in its report, in particular in paragraphs 113 to 116, the proposed agenda items for its thirtieth session, including the new theme fixed for special attention at that session (see para. 20 above), and recommended that COSPAR and IAF, in liaison with Member States, should be invited to arrange a symposium, with as wide a participation as possible, to complement discussions within the Subcommittee on the special theme.

Item 8: Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-first session (A/AC.105/514)

29. At its thirty-first session, the Legal Subcommittee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/45, paragraph 4, considered the following matters:

(a) The elaboration of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, with the aim of finalizing the draft set of principles at the current session

30. The Subcommittee, through its Working Group, continued its consideration of this item. Upon the suggestion of the Chairman, the Working Group agreed to work on the basis of working paper A/AC.105/C.2/L.154/Rev.11, submitted by the delegations of Canada and Germany (see paras. 12 and 13 above), which included both principles agreed upon and those not yet agreed upon, and to consider therefore only the preamble and draft principles 1A, 4 and 12.

31. After intensive informal consultations, the Chairman of the Working Group presented two "working non-papers", which reflected his views of the results of the discussions conducted with regard to the preamble and draft principle 12, and to draft principles 1A and 4. The Subcommittee agreed that the "working non-papers" might be considered at the current session of the Committee as a contribution to meeting the aim set out in General Assembly resolution 46/45.

32. A summary of the discussion in the Working Group as well as the texts of the "working non-papers" are contained in annex I to the report of the Subcommittee. 24/

(b) Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

33. The Subcommittee, through its Working Group, continued its consideration of this item; a summary of the discussion in the Working Group is contained in annex II to the report of the Subcommittee.

(c) Consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries

34. The Subcommittee, through its Working Group, continued its consideration of this item. The various views expressed on the item are contained in annex III to the report of the Subcommittee.

Item 9: Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

35. As mentioned in paragraph 8 above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee conducted, on a priority basis, a joint consideration of this item and of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The Subcommittee, in its report, noted developments relating to the International Space Information Service, studies, inter-agency cooperation and regional and interregional mechanisms of cooperation. 25/

36. The Subcommittee reconvened, in accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 46/45, the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Subcommittee adopted the report of the Working Group, 26/ which contains recommendations addressed to the Committee on the further implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 and the work of the Secretariat. 27/

Item 10: Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status

37. The General Assembly, in paragraph 30 of resolution 46/45, requested the Committee to continue to consider at its current session its agenda item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status".

Item 11: Other matters

38. The Committee will have before it a report on the scientific and technical presentations made in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. 28/ Additional reports may be submitted to the Committee as available. The Committee may wish to discuss other matters as appropriate.

Item 12: Report of the Committee to the General Assembly

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/46/20), para. 150.

2/ A/AC.105/513, paras. 18-45.

3/ Ibid., paras. 26-37.

4/ Ibid., para. 40.

5/ Ibid., para. 42.

6/ Ibid., paras. 46-52.

7/ Ibid., para. 53.

8/ Ibid., annex III, paras. 3 and 4.

9/ A/AC.105/513, para. 60.

10/ Ibid., para. 58.

11/ Ibid., para. 62.

12/ Ibid., para. 64.

13/ Ibid., para. 66.

14/ Ibid., para. 72.

15/ Ibid., paras. 73 and 74.

16/ Ibid., paras. 78, 90 and 94.

17/ Ibid., paras. 80 and 95.

18/ Ibid., paras. 95 and 98.

19/ Ibid., para. 97.

20/ Ibid., para. 99.

21/ Ibid., para. 101.

22/ Ibid., paras. 102, 108 and 109.

23/ Ibid., para. 104.

24/ A/AC.105/514, annex I.

Notes (continued)

25/ A/AC.105/513, paras. 35-45.

26/ Ibid., annex II.

27/ Ibid., paras. 6-8.

28/ A/AC.105/516.

Annex

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF WORK

Date	Morning	Afternoon
Monday, 15 June		Item 1 - Adoption of the agenda Item 2 - Election of a new Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur Item 3 - Commemorative meeting on ISY*
Tuesday, 16 June	Item 4 - Statement by the Chairman Item 5 - General exchange of views	Item 5 - (continued)
Wednesday, 17 June	Item 5 - (continued)	Item 6 - Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes
Thursday, 18 June	Item 6 - (continued)	Item 6 - (continued)
Friday, 19 June	Item 7 - Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**	Item 7 - (continued)
	Item 9 - Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space*	Item 9 - (continued)
Monday, 22 June	Item 7 - (continued) Item 9 - (continued)	Item 8 - Report of the Legal Subcommittee
Tuesday, 23 June	Item 8 - (continued)	Item 8 - (continued)
Wednesday, 24 June	Item 10 - Spin-off benefits of space technology	Item 10 - (continued)
Thursday, 25 June	Item 11 - Other matters	Item 12 - Report of the Committee to the General Assembly
Friday, 26 June	Item 12 - (continued)	Item 12 - (continued)

* A detailed programme will be issued in due course.

** As in the past, items 7 and 9 will be considered jointly.